

reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spencer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,619,689) in view of Hirai et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,945,185).

Claims 1-3, 6-7, and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khoudari et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/01858847) in view of Matsuoka et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0138377).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are moot with respect to Claims 3 and 4, as Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate similar subject matter as now-cancelled Claims 3 and 4. Specifically, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to recite a method of making an air-bag including blow molding a selected plastics material comprising ABS and PC to form an air-bag utilizing a mould, whereby the mould is such that the moulded air-bag has at least one indented annular groove. The Examiner, in rejecting Claims 3 and 4, relied primarily on the combination of Spencer and Hirai and, more specifically, on Figures 14 and 17-19 of Spencer. See

the Office Action mailed November 3, 2009 at Pages 3 and 6. Given the foregoing, the following remarks are directed primarily to Spencer.

Spencer discloses an inflatable knee bolster (232) including a front wall (238) and a body portion (240). See Spencer at Col. 4, Ins. 51-56, and Figure 14. The body portion (240) includes perimeter profile elements (259) as well as interior rib profile elements (269). See Spencer at Col. 5, Ins. 53-67, and Figures 14 and 17.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither the perimeter profile elements (259) nor the interior rib profile elements (269) constitute an “annular groove,” as recited by independent Claim 1. First, Applicants note that the term “groove” is generally understood to be a “long, narrow cut or indentation in a surface.” See <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/groove> (accessed: January 04, 2010). Second, Applicants note that the term “annular” is generally understood to mean an element “having the form of a ring.” <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/annular> (accessed: January 04, 2010). Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that neither the perimeter profile elements (259) nor the interior rib profile elements (269) can be considered an **annular groove**, as neither the perimeter profile elements (259) nor the interior rib profile elements (269) are in the form of a ring. For example, while the interior rib profile elements (269) are formed into a surface of the body portion (240), the interior rib profile elements (269) have a generally rectangular shape and do not cooperate to form a ring. Given the foregoing definitions of “annular” and “groove,” Applicants respectfully submit that neither the perimeter profile elements (259) nor the interior rib profile elements (269) can fairly be characterized as being **annular** grooves.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1, as well as Claims 2, 5-7, and 9-11, dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM

New Claim 12 is added for consideration. Because new Claim 12 depends from independent Claim 1, which is believed to be in condition for allowance in light of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 12 is likewise in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 19, 2010

By:



Stephen T. Olson, Reg. No. 36,626
Matthew H. Szalach, Reg. 53,665

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

STO/MHS/ca

15209322.1

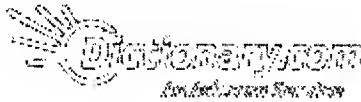
Dictionary

Thesaurus

Encyclopedia

Translator

Web



groove

Sea

Related Searches

Tongue groove board...
 Installing tongue i...
 Groove the movie
 Groove armada
 Tongue groove panel...
 Bust a groove music
 Nailing tongue groo...
 Install tongue groo...
 Groove shoes
 Microsoft office gr...
 Tongue groove ceili...
 Tongue and groove j...



groove - 7 dictionary results

Groove

Piperlime loves **Groove** shoes. Free Shipping. Free Returns.
www.piperlime.com/Grove

groove [groov] [Show IPA](#) **noun, verb, grooved, groov·ing.**

Use **groove** in a Sentence

-noun

1. a long, narrow cut or indentation in a surface, as the cut in a board to receive the tongue of another board (**tongue-and-groove joint**), a furrow, or a natural indentation on an organism.
2. the track or channel of a phonograph record for the needle or stylus.
3. a fixed routine: *to get into a groove.*
4. *Printing.* the furrow at the bottom of a piece of type.
5. *Slang.* an enjoyable time or experience.

-verb (used with object)

6. to cut a groove in; furrow.
7. *Slang.*
 - a. to appreciate and enjoy.
 - b. to please immensely.

-verb (used without object)

8. *Slang.*
 - a. to take great pleasure; enjoy oneself: *He was grooving on the music.*
 - b. to get along or interact well.
9. to fix in a groove.

-Idiom

10. **in the groove**, *Slang.*
 - a. In perfect functioning order.
 - b. in the popular fashion; up-to-date: *If you want to be in the groove this summer, you'll need a bikini.*

Synonyms

incision
 gutter
 slot
 cutting
 scratch
 valley
 rut

[More Synonyms »](#)

Nearby Words

groote eylandt
 groote schuur
 groote, gerard
groove
 groove fricative
 groove of nail ma...
 groove on

Origin:

1350–1400; ME *grofe*, *groof* mining shaft; c. MD *groeve*, D *groef*, G *Grube* pit, ditch; akin to GRAVE¹

About • Privacy Policy • Terms of Use • Careers • Advertise with Us • Link to Us • Contact Us
Dictionary.com, LLC. Copyright © 2010. All rights reserved.

Partner Sites: Ask Answers | Evite | Expedia | Hotels | Hotwire | Life123 | LiveDaily |

Related forms:

grooveless, adjective

groovelike, adjective

groover, noun

Synonyms:

3. rut, habit, pattern.

Dictionary.com Unabridged

Based on the Random House Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2009.

Cite This Source | Link To groove

Dictionary.com

Related Words for : groove

channel, furrow, rut, vallecule

View more related words »

VISUALTHESAURUS

groove

channel

Explore the Visual Thesaurus »

Groove

Piperlime loves **Groove** shoes. Free Shipping. Free Returns.

www.piperlime.com/Grove



v. *tr.*

1. To cut a groove or grooves in.

2. *Baseball* To throw (a pitch) over the middle of home plate, where it is likely to be hit.

v. *intr. Slang*

1.
 - a. To take great pleasure or satisfaction; enjoy oneself: *just sitting around, grooving on the music.*
 - b. To be affected with pleasurable excitement.
2. To react or interact harmoniously.

[Middle English groof, *mining shaft*, probably from Middle Dutch groeve, *ditch*; see ghrebh- in Indo-European roots.]

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition
 Copyright © 2009 by Houghton Mifflin Company.
 Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.
[Cite This Source](#)

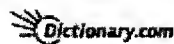
Slang Dictionary

groove

1. n.
 something pleasant or cool. (See also in the groove.) : *This day has been a real groove.*

Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions by Richard A. Spears. Fourth Edition.
 Copyright 2007. Published by McGraw Hill.
[Cite This Source](#)

Say Goodbye to Banner Ads on Dictionary.com



freedom

Search



Games



Word of the Day



Get the FREE Dictionary.com Toolbar »

Word Origin & History

groove

c.1400, from O.N. grod "pit," or M.Du. groeve "furrow, ditch," from P.Gmc. *grobo (cf. O.N. grof "brook, river bed," O.H.G. gruoba "ditch," Goth. groba "pit, cave," O.E. græf "ditch"), related to grave (n.). Sense of "long, narrow channel or furrow" is 1659. Meaning "spiral cut in a phonograph record" is from 1902. Fig. sense of "routine" is from 1842, often depreciatory at first, "a rut." Adj. groovy is 1853 in lit. sense of "of a groove;" 1937 in slang sense of "excellent," from jazz slang phrase in the groove (1932) "performing well (without grandstanding)." As teen slang for "wonderful," it dates from 1944; popularized 1960s, out of currency by 1980.

Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2001 Douglas Harper
[Cite This Source](#)

Medical Dictionary

Main Entry: **groove**

Pronunciation: 'grüv

Function: *noun*

: a long narrow depression occurring naturally on the surface of an organism or an anatomical part

Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary, © 2002 Merriam-Webster, Inc.

[Cite This Source](#)

Medical Dictionary

groove (gr&oomacr;v)

n.

A rut, groove, or narrow depression or channel in a surface.

The American Heritage® Stedman's Medical Dictionary

Copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

[Cite This Source](#)

Idioms & Phrases

groove

see [in the groove](#).

The American Heritage® Dictionary of Idioms by Christine Ammer.

Copyright © 1997. Published by Houghton Mifflin.

[Cite This Source](#)

Search another word or see **groove** on Thesaurus | Reference

**ONE 140S
GPS (Vehicle,
3.5" LCD)
\$99.00**
from Beach Ca...

55%
TigerDirect:
\$219.99
CompUSA:
\$219.99

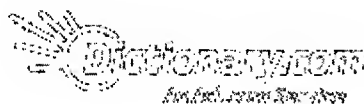
Dictionary

Thesaurus

Encyclopedia

Translator

Web



annular

Sea

Related Searches

What is annular fis...
 Annular tear
 Annular eclipse
 Annular space
 Annular tear progno...
 Annular flow
 Annular tear disc l...
 Annular tear repair
 Joaquin phoenix
 Granuloma annulare
 Erythema annulare c...
 Stenosis

Synonyms

globoid
 spherical
 circular
 globular
 spheric

More Synonyms »

Nearby Words

annuity unit
 annuity-certain
 annul

annular

annular cataract
 annular clock
 annular eclipse

**Get Verizon High Speed Internet
 And Save Over \$150 With**

annular - 6 dictionary results

12.47% First Year Yield

Annual 8.00% Bonus Applied to Withdrawal Value - Free Brochure
www.AnnuityAdvantage.com

Top Fixed Annuity Rates

Instant High Yield Annuity Quotes. Top Plans from Leading Companies.

InsurancePlans.net/Fixed-Annuity

Top Annuity Rates

Compare Multiple Rates Online. Top Plans from Leading Companies.
www.insuremania.com

Sponsored Results

an·nu·lar [an-yuh-ler] [Show IPA](#)

Use annular in a Sentence

-adjective

1. having the form of a ring.
2. (of a carpenter's nail) having a series of concentric grooves to improve holding power.

Origin:

1565-75; < L *annulāris*, equiv. to *annul(us)* ring (var. of *ānulus*) + -*āris* -AR ¹

Related forms:

an·nu·lar·i·ty, *noun*

an·nu·lar·ly, *adverb*

Dictionary.com Unabridged

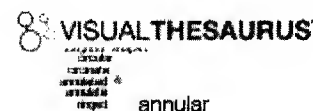
Based on the Random House Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2009.

[Cite This Source](#) | [Link To annular](#)

Related Words for : annular

annulate, annulated, circinate, circular, doughnut-shaped

[View more related words »](#)



[Explore the Visual Thesaurus ›](#)

12.47% First Year Yield

Annual 8.00% Bonus Applied to Withdrawal Value - Free Brochure

www.AnnuityAdvantage.com[About](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [Terms of Use](#) • [Careers](#) • [Advertise with Us](#) • [Link to Us](#) • [Conte](#)



Dictionary.com, LLC. Copyright © 2010. All rights reserved.

Partner Sites: [Ask Answers](#) | [Evite](#) | [Expedia](#) | [Hotels](#) | [Hotwire](#) | [Life123](#) | [LiveDaily](#) |**Top Fixed Annuity Rates**

Instant High Yield Annuity Quotes. Top Plans from Leading Companies.

InsurancePlans.net/Fixed-Annuity

Sponsored Result

an·nu·lar (ān'yə-lər)  

adj. Shaped like or forming a ring.

[Latin ānulāris, from ānulus, *ring*; see **annulus**.]**an'nu·lar'i·ty** (-lār'ī-tē) *n.*, **an'nu·lar·ly** *adv.*

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition

Copyright © 2009 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

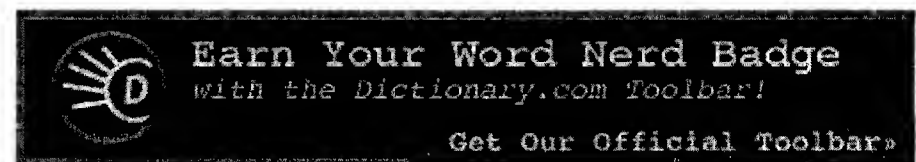
[Cite This Source](#)

Word Origin & History

annular

"ring-shaped," 1571, from L. annularis, from annulus, dim. of anus "ring" (see [anus](#)). An annular eclipse (1727) is one in which the dark body of the moon is smaller than the disk of the sun, so that at the height of it the sun appears as a ring of light.

Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2001 Douglas Harper

[Cite This Source](#)

Medical Dictionary

Main Entry: **an·nu·lar**

Pronunciation: 'an-y&-l&r

Function: *adjective*

: of, relating to, or forming a ring annular diaphragm of a microscope >

Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary, © 2002 Merriam-Webster, Inc.

[Cite This Source](#)

Medical Dictionary

annular an·nu·lar (ān'yə-lər)*adj.*

Shaped like or forming a ring.

The American Heritage® Stedman's Medical Dictionary
Copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company.
Cite This Source

Science Dictionary

annular (ăn'yə-lər) [Pronunciation Key](#)

Forming or shaped like a ring.

The American Heritage® Science Dictionary
Copyright © 2002. Published by Houghton Mifflin. All rights reserved.
Cite This Source

Search another word or see **annular** on Thesaurus | Reference



Top Annuity Rates

Compare Multiple Rates Online. Top Plans from Leading Companies.
www.insuremania.com

Sponsored Result